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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/797,838

03/10/2004

Katrin Reisinger

P04,0025

5666

26574 7590 02/05/2007

SCHIFF HARDIN, LLP
PATENT DEPARTMENT
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EXAMINER

LIU, ERIC

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3628

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

02/05/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/797,838

Applicant(s)

REISINGER, KATRIN

Examiner

Eric Liou

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/30/04 and 4/13/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schuricht et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,040,132.

3. As per claim 1, Schuricht teaches a mail-processing device comprising: a microprocessor (Schuricht: Figure 1, "1"); a keyboard with operating elements connected to said microprocessor for entering a designation of a service product into said microprocessor (Schuricht: Figure 1, "2"); a working memory accessible by said microprocessor containing mail-item-related data values (Schuricht: Figure 1, "6" and Figure 2); a programmable memory and a program memory accessible by said microprocessor (Schuricht: Figure 1, "6"); in at least one of said program memory and said programmable memory, a first memory area containing a program for evaluating said mail-item-related data values stored in the working memory to cause said mail-item-related data values to be permanently or temporarily stored (Schuricht: column 2, lines 37-39), a second memory area containing a first table for indices respectively assigned to different product codes, said product codes being ascendingly or consecutively stored in said table in a column and said table having a second column, in parallel with said first column, containing indices for different product descriptions (Schuricht: Figures 2B and 2C and column 3, lines 42-59 – The Examiner interprets the different shipping modes and rate codes to represent the

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different products. The Examiner further notes, it is in the basic knowledge of the skilled artisan that a rate table contains multiple columns and indices.), and a third memory range for storage of a further table for said product descriptions respectively assigned to said indices in said second column (Schuricht: Figure 2A, The Examiner notes, a further table for the said product descriptions can be the receiver address and location code.); and said microprocessor being programmed by said program for evaluating the mail-item-related data values stored in the working memory by accessing said table containing said first and second columns to automatically determine a product code and a product description for said service product, and to supply as an output a text for said product description for generating a printout thereof (Schuricht: column 4, lines 38-51, "Each information block 16 contains the control commands and text information data required for causing the printer to print out the form or forms required for a certain shipping mode.").

4. As per claim 2, Schuricht teaches the mail-processing device as claimed in claim 1 as described above. Schuricht further teaches the said microprocessor is programmed to determine the index for the product code and to locate the index in said further table for said product description (Schuricht: column 3, lines 60-68 and column 4, lines 1-15, "The processor then has to select this zone conversion table upon entry of the desired carrier and desired shipping mode and to determine the appropriate zone number based upon the receiver location postal code. With this zone number, the processor may then determine the transportation rate value as a function of the entered weight by reference to the applicable transportation rate table.").

5. As per claim 3, Schuricht teaches the mail-processing device as claimed in claim 1 as described above. Schuricht further teaches a fourth memory area for storage of an additional

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further table containing text strings assigned to the respective indices, and wherein said microprocessor is programmed by said program to determine a text string from said additional further table dependent on shipping parameters for said service product and to supply said text strings in said output (Schuricht: Figure 2C and column 4, lines 30-37 – The Examiner interprets the supplement portion within memory 15 to be a fourth memory area, which is separate from the rate table. The Examiner notes, the information located in memory 15 (Figure 2C) is supplied to a printer (column 4, lines 46-51)).

6. As per claim 4, Schuricht teaches the mail-processing device as claimed in claim 1 as described above. Schuricht further teaches the program memory is a permanent memory and wherein said programmable memory is a semi-permanent memory (Schuricht: column 9, lines 35-43).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Liou whose telephone number is 571-270-1359. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, 7:30-5:00 and Friday 7:30-4:00 (first Friday off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Nolan can be reached on 571-272-0847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


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